

House Rejects Curb on War In Cambodia

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The House, in a wildly confused session yesterday, rejected without debate the Cooper-Church amendment curbing U.S. military actions in Cambodia. The vote was 237 to 153. The Senate adopted the measure last week after seven weeks of debate.

House doves charged that they were unfairly denied a

chance to debate the issue. Democratic leaders said they would have been given time to talk but didn't ask for it.

Several antiwar members reported receiving "veiled threats" from the Department of Housing and Urban Development that housing grants for their districts would be denied if they voted for Cooper-Church. White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler in effect called the complaint sour grapes and said there was no White House attempt to apply pressure.

Presidential counselor Robert H. Finch, who was with President Nixon when he received news of the House vote, said the President was elated. Ziegler added that Mr. Nixon was pleased the House had rejected a proposal "that would have unfortunate international complications."

The House action came in the usually routine move of sending to a House-Senate conference the bill extending the Foreign Military Sales Act, to which the Cooper-Church amendment was added by the Senate.

The amendment would forbid future use of American troops in Cambodia or the financing of forces from other nations there without the consent of Congress.

There had been a plan for one hour of debate, but it fell apart in confusion when Rep. Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.), Foreign Affairs Committee

chairman, moved to send the bill to conference.

The rules provide that the motion could be debated for one hour, the time controlled by Morgan. He was prepared to yield time to the peace forces and several were on their feet. But no one said anything.

After looking around for a few seconds, Morgan moved for an immediate vote, and this procedural motion was approved, 247 to 143.

After lengthy conferences during the roll call, Morgan asked unanimous consent that debate be permitted, despite the vote just taken to cut it off. Several Republicans objected.

The peace forces then moved to instruct the House conferees to accept the Cooper-Church amendment in conference. Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) immediately moved to kill the proposal by tabling it. His motion was not debatable.

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After more floor discussions, Hays also asked unanimous consent to permit debate, but objections were shouted from all sides.

Hays' tabling motion was approved, 237 to 153, and that was the end of it. If the vote on Hays' motion could be considered a yes or no vote on Cooper-Church, the House doves piled up their biggest vote ever against the war. Their previous high was 146, which also came on a procedural vote on a similar issue in May.

The effect of the vote is that the conferees are free to work out a compromise or take any position they feel necessary on Cooper-Church in conference.

Voting against Cooper-Church on the motion to table were 138 Republicans and 99 Democrats. Voting for Cooper-Church were 120 Democrats and 33 Republicans.

Morgan said after the vote that no one had asked him for debate time. Rep. Donald Fraser (D-Minn.), a leader of the peace forces, agreed that no specific request had been made, but said he believed it was understood that Cooper-Church supporters wanted time to talk.

Rep. Abner Mikva (D-Ill.) said after the vote: "How do you go to college commencements and tell of the import-

ance of working within the system?" after the House action.

Rep. Allard K. Lowenstein (D-N.Y.) said Democratic leaders were "making the House as anachronistic as the House of Lords" by such actions. "They have made the case that they are afraid of debate and record votes," he said. "This will help make the case to the country against the President's policies in Southeast Asia."

Rep. Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.) told the House he had received a telephone call yesterday from an employee in the congressional relations office of HUD. He said she recalled talking with him last month about an application for a grant for his district. She then said she had called to ask him to vote against Cooper-Church, said Waldie.

Waldie said he interpreted this as a "thinly veiled threat" that the grant would be denied if he voted for Cooper-Church. He did.

The liberal House Democratic Study Group released what it said was a transcript of a telephone conversation between one of its members and Nancy Kasbeck, the HUD employee who called Waldie. She said that at the direction of her superior she had called "everyone we handle, a list of 48 members," the transcript read.